

Application No. 10/768,310
Office Action dated 01/04/2005
Atty. Docket No. 018778-9224

Remarks

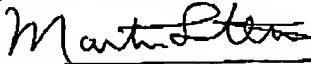
On February 17, 2005, applicants submitted an amendment and response to the January 4, 2005 Office Action. By the present supplemental amendment and response, applicants seek to add new claims 36-40 in response to the January 4, 2005 Office Action, without amending claims 16-35, which were pending with the filing of the previous February 17 amendment. (In the February 17, 2005 amendment and response, new claims 27-35 were added.) Thus, claims 16-40 remain pending for prosecution.

New independent claim 36 calls for a linkage cooperating with the lifting mechanism and coupled to the platform for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically stowed position and an actuator coupling the linkage and the inboard plate for moving the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position. As explained in the amendment and response filed February 17, 2005, in Ringdahl the linkage comprising link arms 100A and 100B and slide shoe 102 for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically stowed position is not coupled by an actuator to the inboard plate for moving the plate between the raised barrier position and lowered bridging position.

Thus, applicants respectfully request entry of this supplemental amendment and response and allowance of all pending claims 16-40.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/1/05


Martin L. Stern, Reg. No. 28911
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1900
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Telephone: (312) 222-0800
Facsimile: (312) 222-0818

S:\client\018778\9224\C0539796.1